

March 28, 1961

Dr. Hugh Odishaw
Space Science Board
1145 19th Street, N.W., Room 716
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Hugh:

I know you must be pretty busy now trying to get set for the COSPAR meeting. I hope I am not being too troublesome in not wanting to fly a wild goose chase.

I would appreciate it very much if you would follow through on what I consider to be our present agreed arrangement. If, after your arrival in Florence, you indeed find that a particularly useful purpose might be served if I attended, I would appreciate it if you would call me. I have standby reservations for the 12th just in case and could travel on something like 24-48 hours notice. The circumstance that would justify the expense, time and discomfort of my travelling too would be if there were representation from the Russians or from other significant foreign groups competent to discuss problems related to exobiology or to do some explicit tangible planning for a later meeting. At the moment it does not look as if this will be the case and consequently there would appear to be little substance to the discussions in respect to biology.

In the circumstances, I would like to leave it to your own judgment how to handle the hotel reservations indicated in Joel's memorandum.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics